

create a more comprehensive and balanced continuum of care for juveniles. Community-based services can handle 80 to 85 percent of juveniles. YRTPs will handle from 10 to 15 percent and the secure youth confinement facility will handle 5 to 10 percent. Juveniles arrested for violent crimes increased 11.5 percent between 1989 and 1994. Delayed construction will cost an additional \$250,000 for every six months of delay. This is a program that's designed to meet the needs that we have in this area. And surely, most of you cannot believe that we don't have some violent youth that need to be locked up and that not all, in my belief, can be corrected or rehabilitated, if you will. I know we all feel that that would be the ideal. Realistically is it? I'll leave you to answer that question. But I believe to delay this program any more, this facility, is only going to set us on a path of having more violence, criminals on our streets. I'm not unwilling to take some other paths and try, but I have to think that there has been some effort in the last few years. And I just don't think that there's much choice but to do some of this in response to the increasing crime that we're seeing. I've read quite a bit, probably not as much as many of you have, on this particular subject as to what society should do. I've seen increasing, in recent weeks, the idea that there may be no choice or no alternative but to lock up those of a violent nature rather than ever trying to rehabilitate them or being able to rehabilitate them.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'll leave that for your discussion, perhaps we need to have that discussion this afternoon by more than just a few of us on this floor as to where we should go, because I see this issue as really central to where the difference of opinion or difference of philosophy, as expressed perhaps by Senator Chambers, if I may say, versus perhaps me, that realistically feel we have to move ahead in further confinement facilities. It's not an easy issue. We've tried to go on line with 988. I think we followed through on that proposed program. This proposal, this amendment, makes an adjustment in that, makes the change, and you will have the next few minutes or hour, whatever, to decide for yourself what to do. But I am going to go on and I...on record as opposing this amendment and urge you to give careful thought to this as we proceed through the debate.